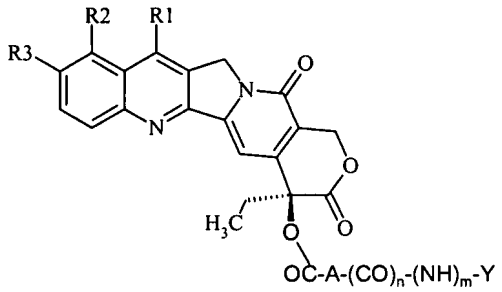
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A compound of Formula (I)



(I)

where:

A is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, straight or branched C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl-C_1-C_8 alkyl;

n and m are both 0;

Y is 4-trimethylammonium-3-hydroxybutanoyl, both in the form of inner salt and in the form of a salt with an anion of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid~~, or Y is $N^+R_{12}R_{13}R_{14}$, as defined above~~;

R_1 is hydrogen or a $-C(R_5)=N-O-R_4$ group, in which R_4 is hydrogen or a straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl or C_1-C_5 alkenyl group, or a C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched (C_3-C_{10}) cycloalkyl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, or a C_6-C_{14} aryl group, or a straight or branched (C_6-C_{14}) aryl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, or a heterocyclic group or a straight or branched

heterocyclo - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with a (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups may optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -NR_6R_7, where R_6 and R_7, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl, the –COOH group or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the –$CONR_8R_9$ group, where R_8 and R_9, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl; or R_4 is a (C_6-C_{10}) aroyl or (C_6-C_{10}) arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -$NR_{10}R_{11}$, where R_{10} and R_{11}, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl; or R_4 is a polyaminoalkyl residue; or R_4 is a glycosyl residue; R_5 is hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkenyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, straight or branched (C_3-C_{10}) cycloalkyl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl, C_6-C_{14} aryl, straight or branched (C_6-C_{14}) aryl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl; R_2 and R_3, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkoxy; the N1-oxides, the racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

22. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 21, selected from the group consisting of:

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(4-trimethyl-ammonium-3-hydroxy)butanoyl-camptothecin bromide; and

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(4-trimethyl-ammonium)butanoyl-camptothecin bromide;

23. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of compounds according to claim 21, where n and m are 0, comprising:

a) reaction of the camptothecin, substituted with the R_1, R_2 and R_3 groups defined above, with a carboxylic acid bearing a leaving group in ω to obtain the respective ester in position 20; and

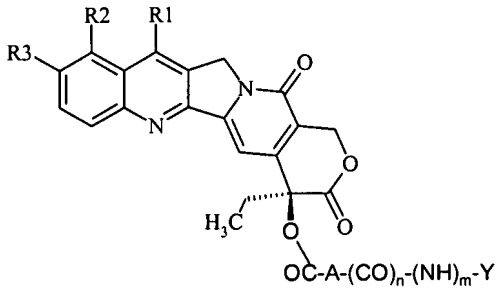
b) substitution of said leaving group with the Y group.

24. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 21, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a lung cancer comprising administering to a subject having said tumor an effective amount of a compound of claim 21.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a lung cancer comprising administering to a subject having said tumor an effective amount of a compound of the formula



where:

A is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, straight or branched C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl-C_1-C_8 alkyl;

n and m are both 0 or both 1;

when n and m are both equal to 1, Y is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C_1-C_8 alkyl substituted with $NR_{12}R_{13}$ or $N^+R_{12}R_{13}R_{14}$, where R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14}, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen or straight or branched C_1-C_4 alkyl, or Y is BCOOX, where B is a residue of an amino acid, X is H, straight or branched C_1-C_4 alkyl, benzyl or phenyl, substituted in the available positions with at least one group selected from C_1-C_4 alkoxy, halogen, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4 alkyl;

if n and m are both 0, Y is 4-trimethylammonium-3-hydroxybutanoyl, both in the form of inner salt and in the form of a salt with an anion of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid, or Y is $N^{+}R_{12}R_{13}R_{14}$, as defined above;

R_1 is a $-C(R_5)=N-O-R_4$ group, in which R_4 is hydrogen or a straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl or C_1-C_5 alkenyl group, or a C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched (C_3-C_{10}) cycloalkyl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, or a C_6-C_{14} aryl group, or a straight or branched (C_6-C_{14}) aryl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, or a heterocyclic group or a straight or branched heterocyclo - (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with a (C_1-C_5) alkyl group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups may optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, $-NR_6R_7$, where R_6 and R_7, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl, the –COOH group or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the $-CONR_8R_9$ group, where R_8 and R_9, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C_1-C_5) alkyl; or R_4 is a (C_6-C_{10}) aroyl or (C_6-C_{10}) arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, $-NR_{10}R_{11}$, where R_{10} and R_{11}, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl; or R_4 is a polyaminoalkyl residue; or R_4 is a glycosyl residue; R_5 is hydrogen, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkenyl, C_3-C_{10} cycloalkyl, straight or branched (C_3-C_{10}) cycloalkyl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl, C_6-C_{14} aryl, straight or branched (C_6-C_{14}) aryl - (C_1-C_5) alkyl; R_2 and R_3, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxyl, straight or branched C_1-C_5 alkoxy; the N1-oxides, the racemic

mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.